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Message Text

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71
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 EUR-25 DRC-01 /151 W
---------- 006180
P R 141821Z DEC 73
FM USDEL JEC PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 164
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USDEL JEC PARIS 1877

E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, VS
SUBJ: GVN-PRG BILATERALS: 32ND PLENARY SESSION, DECEMBER 14, 1973

REF: USDEL JEC 31393

1. SUMMARY. MEETING WAS AGAIN AT DEPUTY CHIEF LEVEL AND DEMONSTRATED CONTINUING STALEMATE. PRG REP THI STRESSED ALLEGED US RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLATIONS OF PARIS AGREEMENT BY GVN AND CALLED FOR GVN TO AGREE TO AN EFFECTIVE CEASE-FIRE, RELEASE OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES, AND GUARANTEE OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES. GVN REP PHONG REGRETTED PRG REJECTION OF EARLIER GVN PROCEDURAL PROPOSALS AND MADE NEW PROPOSAL FOR TWO SIDES TO AGREE ON PRINCIPLE OF SETTING A DEADLINE FOR AGREEMENT. PRG REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL. NEXT MEETING AGREED FOR DEC 21. PHONG TOLD NEWSMEN FORTHCOMING KISSINGER-LE DUC THO MEETING WAS AT DRV INITIATIVE, WHICH PRG SPOKESMAN LATER DENIED, SAYING MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE "BY MUTUAL CONSENT". END SUMMARY

2. AS DELEGATIONS ENTERED CHATEAU ACTING CHIEF GVNDEL NGUYEN XUAN PHONG TOLD NEWSMEN FORTHCOMING KISSINGER-LE DUC THO MEETING WAS BEING HELD AT DRV INITIATIVE AND
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THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN KEPT FULLY INFORMED. PRGDEL

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DEPUTY CHIEF DINH BA THI, ON THE OTHER HAND, STATED MEETING WAS AT U.S. REQUEST.

3. THI OPENED SESSION BY CLAIMING PRG AND DRV HAD ALWAYS RESPECTED PARIS AGREEMENT WHEREAS GVN PURSUED A MORE AND MORE SERIOUS WAR POLICY CONTRARY TO THAT AGREEMENT WHILE ATTEMPTING TO DOWNGRADE AND SABOTAGE PARIS MEETINGS. HE RIDICULED THREE PROCEDURAL SUGGESTIONS GVN HAD AVANCED AT PREVIOUS SESSION (REFTEL). THI THEN EMPHASIZED ALLEGED US RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAIGON'S ACTIONS, SPECIFICALLY ACCUSING U.S. OF ILLEGALLY BRING ARMAMENTS INTO SVN AND OF MAINTAINING 24,000 MILITARY ADVISORS THERE. IN CON-CLUDING, THI ASKED IF GVN WAS PREPARED TO BRING ABOUT AN EFFECTIVE CEASE-FIRE BY STOPPINH ITS ATTACKS AND WITHDRAWING TO POSITIONS OF JAN 28, 1973; TO RELEASE CIVILIAN DETAINEES, AND TO GUARANTEE DOMECRATIC LIBERTIES.

4. PHONG STATED OTHER SIDE HAD REJECTED HIS PROCEDURAL PROPOSALS BECAUSE PRG DESIRED TO CONTINUE TO USE MEETINGS FOR PROPAGANDA AND TO AVOID SETTLEMENT WHILE SEEKING TO IMPROVE ITS POSITION IN SVN. PHONG DECLARED FURTHER THAT IT WAS OTHER SIDE WHICH REFUSED TO DETERMINE ZONES OF CONTROL AND THUS BRING ABOUT A REAL CEASE-FIRE BECAUSE PRG IN ITS GENERAL OFFENSIVE OF MARCH 1973 HAD ONLY GAINED "A FEW SMALL POCKETS OF TERRITORY SOUTH OF THE DMZ AND ALONG THE BOUNDARIES WITH CAMBODIA AND LAOS". PHONG NOTED COMMUNIST ACTIONS AIMED AT PARALYZING JMC AND ICCS. HE ATTACKED PRG PERFORMANCE ON RELEASE OF CAPTURED PERSONNEL AND NOTED GVN WOULD RELEASE REMAINING CIVILIAN PRG PERSONNEL AS SOON AS JMC AGREED ON PROCEDURES DESIGNED TO PREVENT COMMUNIST-FOMENTED DISORDERS AS AT LOC NINH JULY 24. PHONG THEN ADVANCED A NEW PROPOSAL: THAT THE TWO SIDES AGREE IMMEDIATELY ON THE PRINCIPLE OF ESTABLISHING A DEADLINE BY WHICH TO ACHIEVE AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A DEFINITE DATE FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS.

5. THE ENSUING DISCUSSION WAS POLEMICAL, WITH NO NEW CONFIDENTIAL

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ASPECTS, AND INCLUDED PRG REJECTION OF PHONG'S PROPOSAL. IT WAS AGREED TO MEET AGAIN DECEMBER 21.

6. AT FOLLOW-UP PRG PRESS CONFERENCE SPOKESMAN DUONG DIN THAO REHASHED THI'S SPEECH, STRESSING ALLEGED U.S. RESPONSIBILITY FOR SITUATION IN SVN AND USE OF "THIEU REGIME" TO IMPLEMENT NEO-COLONIALISM. IN Q AND A PERIOD THAO STATEF.S. MUST REVERSE ITS

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ERRONEOUS NEO-COLONIALIST POLICY IF DEC 20 MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND SPECIAL ADVISOR LE DUC THO IS TO HAVE FRUITFUL RESULTS. THAO DENIED PHONG'S STATEMENT TO NEWSMEN (PARA 2 ABOVE) THAT MEETING WAS AT DRV INITIATIVE, AND STATED IT WOULD TAKE PLACE "BY MUTUAL CONSENT".
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